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THE CANADIAN FUND

for the COMMEMORATION of the

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

by founding

THE VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES

IN CANADA.

OFFICE:

VICTORIAN ORDER FUND,

Governor-General's Office,

DEPARTMENTAL BUILDINGS,

OTTAWA

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1897.

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PATRON:

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

VICE-PATRONS:

The Lieutenant Governors;

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Premier; Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K.C.M.G., and other Members of the Privy Council; Archbishops, Bishops, and Representatives of Non-Episcopal Churches; Judges; Members of the Provincial Governments; and the Wives of such of these Gentlemen as are married.

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HER EXCELLENCY, THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

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Senators; Members of Parliament; Presidents of Hospital Boards; Presidents of Medical Councils and Associations; Members of Provincial Boards of Health; Professors in Colleges; Representative Clergymen; Presidents of Teachers' Associations; the Wives of such of these Gentlemen as are married; Presidents of Local Councils of Women, and others.

HONORARY TREASURER:
MRS. EDWARD GRIFFIN.

HONORARY SECRETARY
PROFESSOR ROBERTSON.

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THE VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES

IN CANADA.

Her Majesty, the Queen has indicated her desire that the celebrations to mark the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign, should be associated with efforts towards relieving the sufferings of the sick. Therefore it seems fitting that the people of Canada should commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by establishing a national fund for the purpose of placing the aid of trained skilful nurses within the reach of all classes of the population.

PRELIMINARY ACTION.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women, held under the presidency of Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, the consideration of a fitting scheme for commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was taken up Her Excellency advised the adoption of some definite plan which, would receive the approval of the whole National Council of Women, and which would commend itself to the sympathy, good judgment and enthusiastic support of the whole people of Canada.

The particular needs and claims of those families in the outlying, and newly-settled districts of the country, were not unknown to the women of the Council. At the annual meeting in 1896, the following resolution, bearing on the subject was passed :—

That in view of the sufferings endured by women and children in the North-West Territories and in outlying districts of Canada from want of proper medical aid, the National Council of Women of Canada desires respectfully to ask the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments to take the matter into their earnest consideration, and to take steps to remedy the present state of things, and that the Local Councils be requested to suggest some practical scheme whereby medical aid and nursing may be extended to those districts where such is needed, which scheme will be submitted to the Executive Committee of this Council before being sent to the Premier, the Minister of the Interior and the Premiers of the Provinces.

A great deal of the suffering and hardships which are endured by settlers in the isolated and remote parts of the country, and also by those living in cities who have small incomes, might be prevented if adequate medical assistance or the services of competent trained nurses could be obtained.

It is earnestly desired that this Canadian Memorial shall become truly national in its character, as well in the contributions which will make it suitable and effective, as in its application to the different needs and conditions of the various Provinces of Canada, and the several cities and rural districts which compose them.

NOT TO SUPPLANT BUT TO SUPPLEMENT.

Hospitals all over the country are doing splendid work; but they are crowded to the doors, and have not funds enough to pay for new furniture, let alone new buildings. Men and women are giving of their best—their time, their thought their money—to these hospitals. These hospitals require more money for the training of nurses. Part of the

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funds raised might be expended in helping hospitals to train more nurses, and part might be used in engaging the immediate services of trained nurses who would volunteer to labour on salaries in needy districts in the country and the cities.

PHYSICIANS AND NURSES ARE CO-LABOURERS.

Anyone who has seen much of life in this or other lands, knows that provision for the education of physicians and nurses in a thoroughly efficient way should be made on a liberal scale. It is the glory of their calling that they follow it to mitigate suffering, to save lives and to give security to homes. The men and women who do these things are essential to the stability of the nation. This scheme for providing nurses will not displace physicians in the districts where they labour; but it will furnish the means of securing the best results from the skill and advice of medical men. It is not enough that we have the services of physicians,—even in the cities. In cases of serious illness their services must be supplemented and followed up by the ministrations of trained and skilful nurses. In many instances the skill and experience of our best physicians are lost for the lack of trained nurses, intelligent enough to take directions, and to carry them out carefully. In the matter of diet, recovery is often delayed and relapses are caused by the mistaken kindness of those who do not know how to prepare suitable nourishing food for the hardly convalescent. Even after the patient is well on the way to a full recovery of health, the progress is exceedingly slow for want of the help of a trained nurse who would understand food values and prepare dishes suited for an invalid's appetite. These give the natural forces of body and mind a fair chance to combat disease, and to bring about a state of good health. On these the recovery of the patient frequently turns. Then the presence of a trained nurse brings the cheerfulness and hopefulness of confidence to the sufferer and the family; and these act like a charm possessing a virtue beyond that of any drug.

THE SCHEME APPROVED AS NATIONAL.

After the inauguration of this movement by Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, a public meeting was held at Ottawa on Wednesday, February 10th, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor General. The following resolution was moved by the Honourable Wilfred Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, seconded by the Honourable Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, and carried unanimously :—

"That this meeting heartily approves of the general character of the scheme described as the Victorian Order of Home Helpers as a mode of commemoration by the Dominion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and that a fund be opened for the carrying out thereof.

THE NEEDS ARE GREAT.

The urgent need that exists, in the outlying districts of all the Provinces and in all the cities of the Dominion, for thoroughly trained, practical women, available as nurses to those who are not rich, seems to be admitted by everybody ; and there appears to be an almost unanimous opinion that no better national scheme could be devised for commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, than the establishment on a permanent basis of a Victorian Order of Nurses.

The Honorary Secretary before he accepted the position, had an opportunity of bringing an outline of the scheme for founding and maintaining the Victorian Order of Home Helpers or Nurses before fourteen meetings of farmers and their wives in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. The hearty reception of the scheme was shown in genuine gratitude as they said they knew their own needs, and believed the new Order could help them successfully. He conversed with many people at the meetings which were held for agricultural purposes, and they would often say : "We need help such as the new Order pro-

poses to provide." In conversation with a number of ladies in a hall before one of the meetings was called to order one of them said: "Three women died here last Fall because they had no sufficient help in time of need."

HEROES AND HEROINES AMONG THE PIONEERS.

The people of the newly-settled districts in all the Provinces are not poor in anything except in the opportunities, and privileges which are possessed only by communities in comparatively old settlements. They seek no charity. They are the pioneers who have taken up lands, not alone for themselves, but for the nation. They are conquering for Canada wild and unoccupied territory. Soldiers, as we all know, are the special wards and care of the Sovereign; and the people who go out to occupy new lands and acquire new territory by peaceful methods are as worthy in character and not less honourable in occupation than those who, when called upon, fight for their country. Peace has its heroes not less than war. The pioneers who go to settle in remote regions, with their lack of conveniences, comfort and safeguards, are among the heroes and heroines of the nation, and they certainly should share in the benefits of any national movement for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty; particularly if that is to be done in the way of looking after the well-being of those who deserve special consideration at the hands of the Queen and the nation.

PARTICULAR NEEDS OF NEW SETTLEMENTS.

In the newer settlements of all the Provinces from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia, there are men and women with large concepts of life, founding homes for themselves and their families. They are not the downtrodden, the baffled the heartless, the faithless of the people. On the contrary, the

enterprising, the courageous, the hopeful, have gone out to conquer new fields by their masterful labours. The best types of humanity are often found in those homes. They are sturdy and independent. They would say: "We do not want any doles of charity through this or any other agency; but we need adequate medical and nursing help brought within our reach, and are willing to pay for it as far as we can."

By their toils and self-denials they are adding to the possessions of the country thousands of acres of cultivated lands, growing millions of bushels of grain to feed the people of our Empire. They are raising thousands of cattle, flocks of sheep without number, and horses amazing in speed and strength. But these are not all or the main things they are doing. They are founding homes which will shape the destiny of all Canada; homes that will become so numerous in the future that they will surely sway the fortunes of this nation, The ideals and spirit of the women in the homes of a new settlement in a new country affect the lives, the habits, the aspirations and the principles of the people there for several generations to follow. A despondent mother numbs the courage and energies of her boys and girls. The unspoken fear of approaching the gate that swings both ways—into new life or into death—without competent skilled help has clouded many a life and home. Nothing that can be done to lift that dull dread, out of the lives of the pioneers in the country and of the poor in the cities, should be left undone, when a National Jubilee in such an Empire as that of Great and Greater Britain is in prospect.

THE SISTERHOODS AND THE DR. MACLURES.

There is no occasion to make more than a brief reference to the excellent work of the trained nurses now in Canada. They are veritable angels of mercy wherever they go. Among those whose acts of kindness are known of all

men and women, are the members of Societies of Churches ; and especially the Sisterhoods of the Roman Catholic Church. The devotion, the self-sacrifice, the evident purity and goodness of these Sisters are a living benediction to the communities where they labour in all parts of Canada. Their lives are full of unselfish labour and of love ; and any life with that experience is saved from being poor.

In the sparsely settled parts of Canada what is needed now more than ever before, is the presence in scores of localities of skilled physicians who have forgotten the meaning of personal ease,—Dr. Maclures in Canada,—men who believe that the nobility of living is to help others and not to roll up riches. These country sections call for competent doctors ; and if the doctors are supplemented by trained nurses, they could each cover more ground. The trained nurses would also carry valuable knowledge of a most practical sort into the homes of the people.

ORGANIZATION OF NURSING WORK IN CITIES.

An improvement of the conditions under which trained nurses follow their devoted and helpful occupation in the cities of Canada is also urgently needed. The sick poor of many families in the cities and towns who have moderate incomes, would be greatly benefited if they could secure even short visits from thoroughly trained nurses.

The Victorian Nurses might do as valuable and as necessary work in the cities of Canada as they could do in the country districts. They would not in any sense or measure encroach upon, or interfere with, the professional work of physicians or with trained nurses who take cases in private homes on the terms usual for such services.

If a modest, moderate salary could be assured to many of these trained nurses, it would lift their lives out of the precarious state of 'waiting for a case.' If

a trained nurse has to spend half her time waiting for a case, then a comparatively high charge must be made for her services to yield even a living salary. At the same time, many families, who would be glad to obtain the services of a nurse, at a small charge, have to go without. Besides, everyone knows that nearly every training hospital has applications, running well up into the hundreds, from young women who desire to become trained nurses. If means were provided for the training of more nurses, and if the training course were kept quite as thorough as it is in our best hospitals, or even improved, there would be in Canada just so many more willing hands for ministration to the sick. The Victorian Order will undoubtedly help existing agencies to do larger work, on wider fields, with even more thoroughness.

NEW OCCUPATION FOR WOMEN.

Such an Order will furnish a new field of labour for many women who need employment, congenial to their natures and suited to their abilities. The forms of our civilization are changing; and nowadays many women, who, years ago, did not think of taking up any particular occupation, find that they must undertake special and particular work. In nursing they would find an opportunity of helping themselves to happier lives, and of bringing brightness into the homes and lives of others. The gentleness and strength, the sympathy and delicate touch of such women as would become members of the Order, would leave memories and aspirations in the minds of the women and children whom they served, which would never be forgotten.

WHO SHALL BE MEMBERS.

It is proposed when the Order is formed, that the members may be :—

(*a*) Nurses who are already graduates in good standing of schools of recognised standing and who pass an examination such as may be prescribed

(*b*) Nurses who shall be specially trained for the Order, and who shall pass the prescribed examination.

The qualifications of the nurses of the Victorian Order are to be of the highest for the class of work they are expected to do.

SOME OF THE OBJECTS OF THE ORDER.

Sickness is always a severe tax upon the resources of the middle classes. It is a heavy burden upon the poor in spite of hospitals and kindly charities. An intelligent trained nurse, prepared to supply what is necessary, is often the best friend a poor family can have.

Some of the chief objects of the Order will be :—

(*a*) To provide skilled nurses in sparsely settled and out lying country districts ;

(*b*) To provide skilled nurses to attend the sick poor in their own homes in cities ;

(*c*) To provide skilled nurses to attend cases in cities at fixed charges, for persons of small incomes, the charges being paid to the funds of the Order ;

(*d*) To provide small lying-in rooms or wards in cottage hospitals or homes ;

(*e*) To prepare trained nurses thoroughly qualified to carry out these objects.

SUGGESTIONS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

When the details of the scheme and their application are being finally considered, some guidance and valuable suggestions may be obtained from an examination and consideration of what is being done in Great Britain. Where Dis-

trict Nurses are provided in cities there, a nurse may be sent from the Home with a bag of necessaries for nursing, making the rounds of her district, calling at those houses where she has patients. At each house she stays long enough to do what is necessary for the invalid and to put the friends in a position to carry on matters till her afternoon or evening visit. In this way, she not only does with her own hands for the patient what requires most skill, but she is also the means of disseminating very widely a certain amount of definite knowledge about nursing. She will perhaps pay during the day in this manner some fourteen or twenty nursing visits.

Such devoted women go into homes where there is no comfort for the sick and where the shadow of death seems to rest all too soon. Little children are born into the world with no welcome of warm and dainty clothes awaiting them. The nurse may carry a mother's bag with the necessary garments. Such work as this is being done by the District Nursing Associations in the cities of Great Britain. It is uphill work, particularly when it has to depend for the most part upon transient voluntary aid.

Once the Victorian Order of Nurses is firmly established, and substantially endowed, good work on somewhat similar lines might be made permanently beneficial in Canada. Many a sick and suffering one will bless Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and remember in connection with her, the band of nurses who under the uniform, and wearing the badge and name of the Order are doing women's noblest work—caring for the sick, and sometimes smoothing and easing the pathway for the dying.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATION.

While the details of the working out of the scheme cannot be now definitely settled or announced, some further general outline of what is expected to be accomplished may be stated.

It is proposed that a meeting of all the Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents and Representatives of subscribers will be convened at Ottawa when the fund is about to be closed, in order that a committee may be by them elected, to whom all the funds received will be handed over. That Committee will (1) draft a Constitution, (2) decide how the governing body of the new Order is to be chosen and (3)determine how the work to be undertaken shall be carried on.

It has been thought proper to leave as much as possible of the settlement of the details of the scheme, as they may be applied to the rural and urban districts, to the judgment of the Committee to be chosen by all the Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents and Representatives of the subscribers. At the same time it is deemed desirable to outline in general terms what may be accomplished in the country districts about which comparatively little is known in the cities of Canada.

COTTAGE HOMES AS EMERGENCY HOSPITALS.

The nurses could not go to the homes of the settlers in the agricultural, mining, lumbering and fishing districts, unless they themselves were located at some place central to the locality which they were to serve. It would not cost a large sum to put up a number of small cottage Homes, which could also be used as emergency hospitals, with perhaps two beds in each in addition to living accommodation for a nurse or nurses. They might be put up for less than a thousand dollars each, and that, although a comparatively large sum, would not be missed out of the resources of many of the homes in Canada where some wealth has been accumulated. Such a Home might be provided for two nurses, who would be able to attend cases for twenty miles around ; and the Home might have two beds for patients who could be brought there when there was no accommodation for them in their own "shacks." The first "shack" on a prairie farm, for instance, is not a magnificent commodious residence although it is usually the comfortable home of happy people.

AN ESTIMATE OF SOME COSTS.

To illustrate to some extent how the scheme might be applied in the several Provinces, a brief mention may be made of how it might serve the Northwest and Manitoba. In that area there is certainly room for five or six training or residential centres. These might be at such suitable places as Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina or Moosejaw, Calgary and Edmonton. Probably each of these places might have six or eight small Homes, such as have been already referred to, subordinate and tributary to it. If the nurses had their residential quarters only at the training centres, it would be impracticable for them to reach their patients. On some branch lines, trains run only twice a week. If a nurse was at the cottage Home, fifty miles or more from the training or residential centre, she could leave to attend a patient, telegraphing at once to the headquarters, from which a nurse to take her place at the cottage Home, might immediately be sent. That would involve a good deal of travelling by railway, and while it is somewhat the fashion in country districts to rail at the railways as great and soulless corporations, one has enough faith in the human sympathy and business discernment of the men who are at the head of these railways, to believe that they will arrange free transportation for the members of the Victorian Order of Nurses. By some such arrangement as this, one of these large residential or training centres, with its six or eight subordinate or tributary cottage Homes, would cover the area of a European empire; and by the aid of the telegraph could send its nurses through these cottage Homes to the different localities as required. Manitoba and the Northwest would probably require forty cottage Homes, and about sixty nurses—a large number, it is true, and yet a small number for so large a territory. To train thirty nurses in the different training hospitals would cost probably $7,500 a year. Then, if sixty

nurses were engaged at from $400 to $500 each,—and that would not be a princely income, but it would still be the income of a woman doing a Queen's work in her own kingdom—the cost would be about $27,000 a year. The farmers are abundantly able to pay. The earnings of these nurses might he put at $12,000 per annum, leaving $15,000 to be provided towards salaries, and $7,500 towards the annual expense of training. The services of the nurses should not be given free except in cases of extreme poverty. The revenue derived from the earnings of the nurses might go to a central fund of the Order ; and a local or central Board would be able to remit the fees charged to any family too poor to pay them.

AN ENDOWMENT TO MAKE THE ORDER PERMANENT.

It would not be a prudent thing to have the Order started unless provision be made for perpetuating it. It would take an investment of about a million of dollars to ensure revenue to make this benefaction a lasting one for all the needy districts of Canada. Shall we confess ourselves helpless in the presence of this urgent need and dismiss the cry for help with the remark, "But a million dollars is a great sum to raise!" Certainly a million of dollars is a very large sum to raise ; but if the people of Canada can be fully informed and thereby awakened to the greatness and goodness of this movement, a million of dollars will be forthcoming for the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, by such a means as will cause gratitude to glow continually in the hearts of the people of Canada towards the memory of Victoria the Good, and her Representatives and subjects in Canada who promoted this Order. If half a million of dollars at least is raised immediately to establish a fund sufficient to meet the most urgent demands of the present, the remainder will soon follow according as the

people at large see clearly the great benefits that will arise from the carrying out of this thoroughly national scheme.

It would require only a small contribution from each, if every man and woman in Canada gave something out of their plenty, or out of their scanty store, to make other homes as secure as their own. No doubt there will be difficulties to face, but the difficulties will disappear in the presence of enthusiastic hard work and good judgment. That it will be hard to make this scheme a complete success is rather a commendation of, than an objection to it. The things that are best worth doing, are hard to do; and often in life the things hardest to do, are the things best worth doing well.

THE SCHEME IS NATIONAL.

This national scheme is not intended in any way to interfere, or compete with, any local scheme for celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty by ceremonials or memorials in the different Provinces, cities and localities. It is expected that the funds which are raised will take the form of personal offerings from the citizens of Canada, expressing their loyalty and love to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, during whose long and happy reign such marvellous progress has been made in all that is for the well-being of the people. The Victorian Order will be associated with her name in providing for the relief in times of sickness of her subjects throughout the length and breadth of Canada.

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION.

To give immediate effect to this scheme, their Excellencies the Governor General, as Patron, and the Countess of Aberdeen, as President, have requested the following ladies and gentlemen to compose the Provisional Committee:

Lady Ritchie, Mrs. Hayter Reed, Mrs. Kirchoffer, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière, M.P., the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, M.P., the Bishop of Ottawa, Mr. Justice Girouard, the Hon. E. H. Bronson, M.P.P., Mr. Justice Burbidge, Mr. Wm. Hutchison, M.P., Mr. N. A. Belcourt, M.P., Mr. H. Bostock, M.P, Father Constantineau, the Rev. W. T. Herridge, the Rev. J. B. Saunders, the Rev. Wm. Mackintosh, the Rev. A. N. Frith, Dr. S. E. Dawson, Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C.M.G., Dr. MacCabe, Mr. George O'Keefe, M.P.P., Mr. A. E. Forget, and others. It is regretted that some of them will be unable to act on the Committee.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION.

If the Committee to be chosen at the meeting of the Vice-patrons, Vice-presidents and Representatives of subscribers, decides to include the establishment of small Cottage Hospitals or Homes at different points in the outlying country districts and also in the cities, it is proposed that each of such Homes shall be named after donors who subscribe $1,000 or more.

It is expected that local Committees will be formed to cover the whole Dominion of Canada. Mayors of cities, Wardens of Counties, Reeves of Towns, Reeves of Townships and Villages, are cordially invited to take the initiative in this matter in their several localities.

It is proposed to invite many of the leading newspapers in Canada to open subscription funds and to publish the names of the subscribers in their issues from day to day or from week to week.

The publication is not expected to begin before the 1st of May.

It is proposed to invite all clergymen to preach appropriate sermons and to invite collections in their churches on Sunday the 23rd May, or some other suitable Sunday.

It has been suggested that a special collection be taken up in every schoolhouse in Canada on Friday the 21st of May.

Steps will be taken to appoint Honorary Collectors in different sections throughout the Dominion. These will be furnished with subscription books duly authorizing them to receive subscriptions for the Canadian Fund.

Subscriptions of small sums from those who cannot afford more will be as welcome as the large gifts of rich men and corporations.

A MATCHLESS MEMORIAL.

This will be a matchless memorial of the noblest Queen of any country or age. It will show, as the personal gift of Canadians to Her Majesty, that they admire and appreciate her blameless, beneficent and beautiful life, noble alike in its sympathies and its activities in doing good. It has been the reign of a Monarch doing good for all the people ; and thus the Queen need not be concerned for a throne of velvet or gold, or monuments in marble or bronze, since she is enthroned in the hearts of her people, who love her as no Monarch was ever yet beloved. For such a Queen it would be a happier plan to have a memorial in the form of gratitude written perennially in the hearts of the mothers of a young nation, than to have it graven in stone or any inert material. From the women of Canada the music of loving memory will continually swell out in strains of warm and affectionate esteem. The children also, they will rise up and call her blessed ! A memorial like that will be sweet to a woman like Queen Victoria.

NATIONAL SENTIMENT.

This movement appeals to our national sentiment as Canadians. It appeals to every citizen's patriotism. After all, what is one's country? It is not the land, the climate, the food, the clothes, or even the customs of the people. It is the quality of the homes and the institutions that have grown out of these. The object of this movement is to give a sense of security and peace to the homes in the new settlements, and to the homes of the poorer classes in cities, and to let all the people know that they shall have help in time of dire need. What can we do to enrich the country in this Jubilee Year? We might add something to its material possessions, but would that be the best that could be done? If we can enrich the people in their hearts and lives, and help further to make the people of Canada contented, happy and proud to belong to this nation, then we shall have added wealth that cannot take wings and fly away.

IT EXPRESSES OUR SYMPATHIES AND CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

This movement appeals to our human sympathies. It provokes us to help others in the sore trial of sickness. It strengthens us to sacrifice our own love of ease, and to bear the burdens of others. It quickens us to take our stand beside them in their struggles, in their anxieties and even in their failures under the strain of making new homes in a new country.

It provides for the active and unsparing exercise of our Christian professions and principles. It covers more than many words can express. It can be made more effective than our anticipations represent; and when all Canadians give it all the help they can, it must, it will succeed.

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for the COMMEMORATION [illegible]

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